

Today we are at Llangennith and may I remind you of the pre-concert talk at 6pm in Llangennith village hall when Griff Harries, one of our committee, will be talking about Adelina Patti. This talk will last an hour and will be fully illustrated. It promises to be a real treat and not to be missed!

The shuttle bus will be running from the top of the hill as you approach Llangennith both before and after the concert - look for the Gower Festival signs as you approach the village.

There are still a few tickets left for tonight's concert if you, or anyone you know, would still like to come. We had a visit from the Wales International Academy of Voice two years ago and they were superb, so do come along if you can otherwise you will miss a real treat!

This concert is being sponsored by Susan and John Medwell.

On Thursday we will also have a shuttle bus running as we are in Llanrhidian. Parking will be in Mr and Mrs Dunn's field on the road between Reynoldston and Llanrhidian. Again, look out for the Gower Festival signs. We are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Dunn for once again letting us use their field. This concert will be with the Carducci Quartet and is a sell-out!

There will be a porta-loo at the church in case anyone needs to use it and Cheers will be in attendance with their usual offerings!

Thursday's concert is being sponsored by Andrew Davies and by Swansea Timber and Plywood. I would like to thank all of our sponsors from all our concerts for their support. They make a huge difference in the calibre of musician that we are able to invite to come to perform at the Gower Festival. If you would like to support the festival in this way, please let me know.

There is an extra treat for you today at the end of the Maestro's Mumbblings you will find a quiz. The answers can be found in your programme and the prize is a bottle of bubbly! If you don't have a programme yet, or if you have mislaid your copy, you will find me at the entrance to each venue selling programmes. They are only £3 this year and we still have a few available!

Now over to the Mumbling Maestro of Mumbles.....

"There are two golden rules for an orchestra: start together and finish together. The public doesn't give a damn what goes on in between." - Thomas Beecham

A veritable feast for Opera lovers, of which I'm definitely one. First of all at 6pm today, we hear a talk about the astonishing life of Adelina Patti. She died 100 years ago. Her story is amazing - but rather than steal our guest speaker's thunder, I'll skip on to the other part of the evening which is the Opera Gala.

I always think Opera is a bit like Marmite - in that you either love it or hate it. (NB: other products made from yeast extract are widely available and no animals were harmed in the writing of this).

The Russian composer Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov could be described as an opera dynamo he composed fifteen of them himself and he also had a hand in editing, orchestrating and promoting important Russian operas written by others such as Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* and Borodin's *Prince Igor*. Of Rimsky-Korsakov's fifteen operas however, only his last *The Golden Cockerel*, is staged with any regularity outside Russia, although excerpts from several of them have proven immensely popular as concert pieces. The familiar *Flight of the Bumble-Bee* is from an opera based on Russian fairy tales which has this snappy title *The Tale of Tsar Saltan, of his Son the Renowned and Mighty Bogatir Prince Guidon Saltanovich and of the Beautiful Swan-Princess*. If you think the title is a bit long, consider the required cast list which, in addition to thirteen main characters, calls for Boyars and their wives, courtiers, nursemaids, sentries, troops, boatmen, astrologers, footmen, singers, scribes, servants and maids, dancers of both sexes, 33 knights of the sea with their leader, Chernomor, a squirrel and, oh yes, a bumblebee - but the damned thing keeps flying off!!!

Tomorrow I shall be mostly mumbling about a composer who was a nutcase.

Mumbling Maestro of Mumbles

This is our **QUIZ** which is light hearted and hopefully a bit of fun

There are four 'local' people performing in this year's Gower Festival. By local, I mean the area we used to refer to as West Glamorgan (Gower, Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot). We have asked each of them 10 questions. Here are the questions and each person's answers. I want you to name the four artists. Who is A? Who is B? Who is C? Who is D?

Please send your answers to friends@gowerfestival.org and the first name out of the bag with all correct will win a bottle of champagne - not bad eh?

So, thinking caps on. The clues are all there, all you have to do is solve them.

GOWER FESTIVAL 2019 QUIZ -

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM EACH ARTIST A, B, C, D

1). Do you like laverbread? If YES - how is it served?

A. Don't know what it is!

B. We used to have it on a Saturday, after visiting Swansea market. Dad would cook it up with cockles and bacon ... resulting in lots of 'sketting' of the cooker with all sorts of yukky gloop. I most recently ate it as a small portion of a canape and I really enjoyed it then, but I couldn't eat it as a dollop on a plate any longer.

C. NO.

D. Yes, love it, with Penclawdd cockles (ideally) and bacon.

2). Do you have an all time favourite piece of music, the one piece you would take if you were left to survive alone on Lundy Island - and why?

A. Beethoven's symphonies - any or all. They're great to conduct.

B. One piece of music? ONE? Oh my, that's a tough one. For me (and, I suspect, many people) most pieces of music are linked to a time in my life, or a specific occasion. I'm one of those people who believe that 'the best is yet to come', so there are no parts of my past life that I dwell upon as being 'the best of times'. That said, I do sometimes find myself driving along listening to a piece and thinking about the decades over which I've heard it and marvelling at how extraordinarily my life has changed over those decades. So, with that in mind, I'm going to choose *Changes* by David Bowie. I saved up my pocket money in 1971 to buy the album *Hunky Dory* and played it until I almost wore the grooves away. It meant a great deal to me then and still does now. That said, if I had to choose one classical piece (bearing in mind that *Changes* isn't quite 50 years old yet) it would have to be Erik Satie's *Trois Gymnopédies* - absolutely perfect!

C. Schubert Quintet because it's great!

D. Closing Trio from Richard Strauss' opera, *Der Rosenkavalier*. Most sublime music ever.

3). What is Welsh for Pickled Egg?

A. .Don't know

B. No idea and I'll never need to know!

C. No idea ... don't care!

D. Wŷy wedi'i biclo (but I looked it up).

4). If you could invite three people you admire to join you for a drink on the 'Mumbles Mile', who would they be and briefly why would you choose them? (for this fictional outing you can invite guests that are alive or dead).

A. Bach, Beethoven and Brahms

B. The Mumbles Mile? Gracious ... in that case I'd better take some serious drinkers with me! Of course I'd ask Dylan Thomas along and I'd also enjoy having a chance to chat with Dame Agatha Christie as well as William Shakespeare. I'm not entirely sure how far along the Mile we'd make it but I'm sure it would be an interesting gathering.

C. Mozart, Gandhi and Owain Glyndwr. All were towering figures.

D. All musicians I'm afraid: Bach, Wagner and Miles Davies because they are all people of genius.

5). **Which rugby team do you support-Wales, Canada, Ospreys, Scarlets, Penclawdd, Kittle, or Tonna?** (please choose all that are relevant).

A. Kittle

B. Wales, Canada and the Ospreys.

C. Wales and Tonna.

D. Wales, Penclawdd. I was always torn between All Whites/Ospreys and Scarlets (my father played for the 'Whites' while still at school) but a club I did support was London Welsh in the glory days of JPR, Gerald Davies, Mervyn Davies etc. when they had 7 Lions on the '71 tour to NZ.

6). **What was the word you used for dodging out of a lesson when you were in school - and did you?**

A. Skiving - yes, sometimes

B. Mitching. Not that I ever did it, of course!

C. Skiving yes.

D. Mitchin' I think, but I have never seen it written down (spelling?) but I never did!

7). **If you were on death row - what would you choose for your last meal?**

A. Herring salad

B. Duck confit to start, served with balsamic-macerated cherries and a small mesclun salad, followed by a medium rare chateaubriand with potatoes dauphinoise and green beans, with a chocolate mousse for dessert - all washed down with a bottle of Veuve Cliquot. The perfect meal!

C. Lamb dinner.

D. A meal from France (by chef Georges Blanc from Vonnas) with the best white burgundy, like a Mersault, although I no longer drink.

8). **Do you remember any of these coming around the streets of the area when you were growing up?**

a) Coleman, b) Popman, c) Baker, d) Fish-man, e) Rag & Bone man. f) Milkman, g) Ice Cream Van (playing a tune?)? Any others?

A. e,f and g

B. I clearly remember the coalman, the popman, the rag and bone man, the milkman and the ice-cream man - we also had a man who came with paraffin and another with vegetables and eggs.

C. a,b,d,e,f,g.

D. 'John the Coal', a kind of ironmonger's shop in a van called Hagerton's and Gwynn the Milk, with his horse, Tommy, and cart, and dog Peter.

9). **Do you know any alternative words to *The Ash Grove*? Yes/No - say no more!**

A. No

B. When I studied at Cardiff University, for one year I shared a house with eight rugby players - so, yes, I do know an alternative version of *The Ash Grove*!

C. YES.

D. No

10). **If a film was made of your life - which star would you choose to play you?**

A. Anthony Hopkins

B. If Catherine Zeta Jones were prepared to put on a good few pounds, she'd do a great job! We were in the Swansea Gang Shows together back in the 1970s and I think she'd not only enjoy having to return to Swansea to film the parts of my life I lived there but I'd put money on her revelling in all the travel she'd have to undertake to be able to visit the locations where I have lived and worked over the past forty years.

C. Michael Sheen.

D. David McCullum 'The Man from U.N.C.L.E.'. People used to say I looked like him.

END OF QUIZ

SO – Your answers please. I want the names of the four local performers. Who do you think is:

A.? B,? C.? D.?

please send your answers to friends@gowerfestival.org and the first name out of the bag wins a bottle of fizz.